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THE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GAINSBOROUGH

REPORT

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

FOR THE YEAR 1951

Caldicotts, Printers, Trinity Street, Gainsborough

GAINSBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman :

J. J. ALLEN, J.P., Scotton

Vice-Chairman :

A. SMITHSON, Morton

Clerk of the Council :

EDGAR A. DONSON,

R.D.C. Offices 17, Morley Street, Gainsborough

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. J. C. MACARTNEY, M.D.(Edin.), D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

E. DONELLY, A.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.

Gainsborough Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1951

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE GAINSBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

12th August, 1952.

Sir, Madam and Gentlemen,

In presenting my report for the year 1951, I am pleased to say that the healthiness of our Gainsborough Rural District has been highly satisfactory. The estimated population, which now includes non-civilians, has risen by 610 to 12,810. Compared with the rest of the country the Birth Rate (21.9) was very high and the Death Rate (10.1) was exceptionally low. Infantile Mortality Rate (38.7) was not unreasonable considering the high birth rate, and the fact that the nine infantile deaths included six due to gross prematurity and two due to congenital causes. These conditions allow no scope for prevention. Regarding the causes of death, the majority were those due to advanced age. Cancer has been responsible for a large number of deaths throughout the country, as much as, about one in every six deaths. In this district the proportion was only one in fourteen. There was a very low incidence of Infectious Diseases and we had no Diphtheria cases. Accidents accounted for ten deaths but five of these were related to non-civilians (Royal Air Force). It is very satisfactory to note that no deaths were due to Road Traffic Accidents.

In conclusion, I wish to express my gratitude to the members of this Council for their kindly and helpful consideration of all matters relating to Public Health. I also wish to thank all officials for the very helpful co-operation which I have always received.

Yours faithfully,

J. C. MACARTNEY,
M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

SECTION A.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Rural District ..... 78,598 acres
Estimated Population 12,810
Rateable Value on the 31st March, 1951 ..... £40,855
Sum represented by 1d. Rate £170

The district is entirely rural in character and the sole industry is agriculture. It surrounds the Urban District of Gainsborough on three sides. The Northern and Southern extremities are seventeen miles apart and the greatest width is eleven miles. Part of the Parishes of Lea and Morton, adjoining Gainsborough town, are semi-residential. There are thirty-seven parishes and the Council consists of thirty-two Councillors.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	119	113	232
Legitimate	114	111	225
Illegitimate	5	2	7
Still Births	4	6	10

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 21.9

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS. All causes	81	59	140

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 10.1

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS. Infants under 1 year	5	4	9

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) 38.7

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2	3
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	1	—	1
Acute poliomyelitis	1	—	1
Cancer	6	4	10
Diabetes	—	3	3
Vascular leisons of nervous system	8	10	18
Coronary disease, Angina	7	5	12
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart disease	12	10	22
Other circulatory disease	3	1	4
Influenza	5	3	8
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	5	3	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined disease	12	11	23
Accidents (other than motor vehicle)	9	1	10
Suicide	1	—	1
	81	59	140

COMPARATIVE TABLES.

Births:

Year	Male	Female	Total	Birth† Rate
1951	119	113	232	21.9
1950	120	115	235	19.2
1949	106	93	199	16.3
1948	129	113	242	22.16
1947	107	105	212	20.26
1946	111	95	206	18.18

Deaths:

Year	Male	Female	Total	Death† Rate
1951	81	59	140	10.1
1950	67	73	140	11.4
1949	67	52	119	9.7
1948	63	56	119	10.8
1947	72	59	131	12.52
1946	53	56	109	10.5

Infantile Mortality:

Year	‡Rate
1951	38.7
1950	25.5
1949	55.0
1948	28.9
1947	33.0
1946	29.1

	†Birth Rate	†Death Rate	‡Infant Mortality
England and Wales	15.5	12.5	29.6
126 Great Towns	17.3	13.4	33.9
148 Smaller Towns	16.7	16.7	27 6
London	17.8	17.8	26.4
Gainsborough Rural District	21.9	10.1	38.7

† Rates per 1,000 Home Population.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Health Information.

Enquiries relating to local health services may be made of the Medical Officer of Health, 10/12, Lord Street, Gainsborough. The County Medical Officer is Dr. W. S. H. Campbell, O.B.E., County Offices, Lincoln.

Many various facilities are available under the following headings:—

Maternity Service.

Child Care.

Home Nursing.

Health Visitors.

Home Helps.

Sick Room Requisites, appliances and other equipment.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Mental Health.

Ambulance Service.

Minor Ailment Clinics for School Children.

Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics.

The County Council's clinics function at Gainsborough as follows:—

(a) **At Spital Terrace Clinic**

Minor Ailments Clinic	Daily 9-30 a.m.
School Clinic	Tuesdays 2 p.m.
Infant Welfare Centre	Thursdays 2 p.m.
Toddlers Clinic	2nd Friday and 4th Monday in each month 10 a.m.
Ante-Natal Clinic	1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday in each month 10 a.m.
Dental Clinic Vaccination and Immunisation	By appointment.
Sunlight Clinic	Mondays and Thursdays 10 a.m.
Domestic Help Service	Organiser attends Thursdays 2 p.m.

(b) **At Woods Terrace Clinic**

Infant Welfare Centre	Mondays 2 p.m., Tuesdays 10 a.m. except 4th Tuesday in month.
Ante-Natal Clinic	1st, 3rd and 5th Monday in month 10 a.m.
Toddlers Clinic	2nd Monday and 4th Friday 10 a.m.

In addition to above, appointments can be arranged at the John Coupland or other Hospital for school and pre-school children requiring Ophthalmic or Ear, Nose and Throat consultant services. A Rheumatism and Heart specialist is also available

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLY.

(i) The water supplied by the Council is derived from the following sources and during the year was satisfactory both in quality and quantity:—

(1) Council's own boreholes at Glentham and Caenby, west of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

(2) Bulk supply from Lincoln Corporation, the supply being derived from boreholes at Elkesley in Nottinghamshire.

(3) Bulk supply from Glanford Brigg Rural District Council for the hamlet of Susworth only (i.e., 35 properties in the Scotter Parish).

(ii) Samples for Bacteriological and Chemical examinations were taken periodically and the results were satisfactory.

(iii) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination as no adverse reports were received.

A survey has been commenced throughout the area to ascertain which properties do not obtain water from public supply. In all cases where water is drawn from wells, water samples are taken, and when found to be unsuitable for drinking purposes statutory notices are served. When property owners are informed that the water is unfit, it often happens that the work is carried out without the service of a statutory notice being necessary.

(v)

Parish.	HOUSES. Total No.	No. with piped supplies.
Blyborough	47	47
Blyton	246	222
Brampton	25	24
Corringham	133	104
East Ferry	44	36
East Stockwith	97	96
Fenton	75	74
Fillingham	65	49
Gate Burton	22	20
Glentworth	78	61
Grayingham	32	23
Hardwick	Supplied by Lincoln Corporation	
Harpswell	21	16
Heapham	39	32
Hemswell	99	89
Kettlethorpe	52	46
Kexby	110	108
Knaith	48	47
Laughton	64	59
Lea	180	179
Marton	117	102
Morton	Supplied by Gainsborough U.D.C.	

Parish.	HOUSES. Total No.	No. with piped supplies.
Newton-on-Trent	71	65
Northorpe	59	42
Pilham	16	12
Scotter	316	302
Scotton	79	63
Springthorpe	41	39
Stow	104	86
Sturton-by-Stow	177	164
Thonock	21	—
Torksey	50	26
Upton	66	56
Walkerith	22	22
Wildsworth	29	24
Willingham	126	89
Willoughton	142	122
Total ...	2913	2546

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Blyton, Scotter and Scotton schemes were in progress during the year and house connections to the new sewers being arranged. The Council are now making a grant of £10 or half the cost, whichever is the less, for conversion of earth closets to water closets and quite a lot of applications were received. Morton scheme is about to be commenced and it is hoped that this scheme may be in operation at the end of 1953. Although the schemes for Lea and Knaith Park have been approved by the Ministry, a commencing date has not yet been received. Schemes are planned for four more villages.

REFUSE COLLECTION, SCAVENGING.

A direct labour house refuse removal service is in operation throughout the district and appears to be working very satisfactorily. There are six tips scattered throughout the area. These will answer their purpose for some time to come. They are treated at regular intervals for rat infestation. There is only one night-soil removal service in operation, which is at Morton village. This, of course, will cease after completion of the Morton sewerage scheme.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Number of houses completed during the year :

(a) by the Local Authority	39
(b) by other Bodies	12
...	51

The total number of post-war houses completed at 31st December, 1951 was 189 and 58 were under construction.

COMPARISON.
AVERAGE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS IN LINDSEY.
POSITION ON 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

	Average Achievement	Achievement of Gainsborough R.D.C.
Council houses completed ...	214	189
COUNCIL HOUSES COMPLETED PER 1,000 OF POPULATION ...	12.8	16.7
Council houses under erection	58	58

HOUSING ACT, 1936. — PART IV — OVERCROWDING.

(a)	(I)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	11
	(II)	Number of families therein...	14
	(III)	Number of persons dwelling therein	87
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c)	(I)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
	(II)	Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	41
(d)		Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil

SECTION E

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Byelaws relating to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air are now in force. Copies of these byelaws were made available to the public and public notices thereon were made in the Press. Legislation alone will not solve our problem. Personal contacts using the right kind of education and persuasion, as well as obtaining the good-will of all concerned are essential in the pursuit of common cleanliness. Your Sanitary Inspector is vigilant and tactful in such efforts.

Food poisoning is notifiable. However, no single cases, nor outbreaks due to identified agents or undiscovered cause, were brought to notice.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of Infectious Disease was very low. 141 cases of measles and 25 of whooping cough occurred, none of which

was fatal. The number of scarlet fever and tuberculosis notifications was very small, 5 of each. Influenza (not notifiable) accounted for 8 deaths and pulmonary tuberculosis only 3 deaths during the year. One suspected case of poliomyelitis was reported, but fortunately the diagnosis was not confirmed. The death recorded from poliomyelitis relates to a case which occurred the previous year. It is very pleasing that there was no diphtheria. A school-child contracted typhoid fever at Willingham. Here, the contacts were kept under surveillance and frequent laboratory tests were made. No "carrier" could be discovered. However, analysis of a shallow well water, used for drinking, revealed gross polution. This source of water supply was condemned as unfit for use, and we were fortunate in getting piped water laid on with the least possible delay, in spite of the distance from the public supply and of the difficulty in obtaining the necessary material. The patient made a good recovery and I am pleased that no further case occurred. I am very grateful to the Sanitary Inspector and the Water Engineer for their energetic co-operation and help in this case.

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES.

	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Poliomyelitis	Tuberculosis Pulm.	Tuberculosis Non-Pulm.	Typhoid Fever
Blyborough	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blyton	21	2	5	2	—	—	—	—
Corringham	8	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
East Stockwith	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Fillingham	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gate Burton	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Glentworth	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Grayingham	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hardwick	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harpswell	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hemswell	16	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Hemswell R.A.F.	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Knaith	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES (continued).

	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Poliomyelitis	Tuberculosis Pulm.	Tuberculosis Non-Pulm.	Typhoid Fever
Brought forward	63	5	15	4	Nil	2	—	—
Laughton	12	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Lea	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morton	15	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Newton-on-Trent	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northorpe	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scotter	16	—	—	—	1*	1	—	—
Scotton	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Springthorpe	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sturton-by-Stow	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Torksey	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Upton	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Willingham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Willoughton	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	141	5	25	5	1	5	—	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Measles	33	34	36	6	1	1	6	22	—	1	1	—	141
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Whooping Cough	8	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	—	8	1	3	25
Pneumonia	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	5
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1*	—	—	—	—	1
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total	43	36	36	10	4	2	8	23	1	9	2	4	178

* Diagnosis not confirmed

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
0—5	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	2	—	—
25—45	1	—	—	—
45—65	2	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	2	—	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Non-Respiratory M.	Non-Respiratory F.
1	2	—	—

Total 3

This is a small number of deaths from this serious disease and is worth contrasting with the large number of deaths due to accidental causes.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948. PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	5	Nil	Nil
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	48	22	Nil	Nil
(iii)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total	55	27	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT. OUTWORK. Sections 110 and 111.

....Nil